

***The National Summit of Rural America:
A Dialogue for Renewing Promise***



**Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Missouri
June 3, 2010**

Morning Plenary

Location: Jefferson College Field House

- 9:00am Introduction by Max Armstrong
- 9:05am Welcome from Dr. Raymond V. Cumiskey, President of Jefferson College
- 9:10am Rural Tour Video
- 9:15am Introduction of Secretary Tom Vilsack by Congressman Russ Carnahan
- 9:20am Keynote Address by Secretary Tom Vilsack

Morning Panel Discussion

10:00am A Dialogue on Rural America

- Moderator: Secretary Tom Vilsack
- Panelists: Aneesh Chopra, Chief Technology Officer and Assistant to the President
Steve Flick, President of Show Me Energy
Darrin Ihnen, President of National Corn Growers Association
Jefferson Keel, President of National Congress of American Indians
John Redding, Past President of National Association of Conservation Districts
James Young, Mayor of Philadelphia, Mississippi

Lunch

Location: Field House

- 11:30am Pick up lunch (Healthy School Lunches will be provided)
- 11:50am Introduction of Luncheon Speaker by Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan
- 12:00pm Luncheon Speakers:
 - Josh Moore , FFA Arizona State Vice President
 - Taylor Huhmann, Immediate Past State FFA Officer from Missouri

1pm Breakout Sessions

Summit Participants will be separated by track to focus on specific issue areas. Breakout sessions will be focused on providing solutions, ideas, and success stories to address the challenges facing Rural America.

Track #1 – Building Critical Infrastructure for a 21st Century Rural Economy

Location: Student Center, Viking Room

Chairs: Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

USDA Representatives: Administrator Jonathan Adelstein and U/S Cheryl Cook

Track #2 – Expanding Opportunities for Rural Businesses

Location: Arts and Sciences I Building, Room 117

Chairs: Dr. Everette Freeman, President Albany State University, Albany Georgia and Ross Racine, Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Montana

USDA Representatives: U/S Ed Avalos and Quentin Robinson

Track #3 – Renewable Energy and Biofuels

Location: Arts and Sciences I Building, Room 119

Chairs: Chuck Fluharty, President and CEO of the Rural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri

USDA Representatives: U/S Dallas Tonsager and Administrator Jonathan Coppess

Track #4 – Farm Competitiveness and Productivity

Location: Arts and Sciences I Building, Room 115

Chairs: Gary Wertish, Vice President of Minnesota Farmers Union

USDA Representatives: Deputy U/S Michael Scuse and Assistant Secretary for Departmental Management, Pearlie Reed

Track #5 – Forest Restoration, Rural Recreation and Private Land Conservation

Location: Student Center, Cafeteria

Chairs: David Nomsen, Pheasants Forever and Tom Martin, American Forest Foundation

USDA Representatives: U/S Harris Sherman and Deputy U/S Ann Wright

Track #6 – Regional Food Systems and Nutrition

Location: Fine Arts Building, Theatre

Chairs: Matt Dace, Associate Executive Director, St. Louis Food Bank

USDA Representatives: U/S Dr. Kevin Concannon and Acting U/S Jerry Mande

Wrap-Up Session

Location: Field House

3:00-4:00pm Brainstorming Solutions and Opportunities for the Future: A Report Back to Secretary Vilsack by USDA Subcabinet

4:00-4:30pm Closing Remarks by Secretary Vilsack